

Western State Hospital
Staunton, Virginia

Local Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes
Jeffreys Building, Room 95 at 12:30
October 26, 2009

Present: Donna Gum, Hal Meyers, Ski Washington, Stephanie Sault, Robert Wade, Committee Members; Jerry Thomas, Patient Advocate; Chuck Collins, Regional Advocate; Erin Haw, VOPA, Gail Burford, Director's Liaison

Guests: Mahlon Webb, Potential LHRC Member
E. H, patient at Western State
Brian Kiernan, Psychologist on A2
Betty Anderson, A2 staff member
Charlene Ellestad, Dietician at Western State

Donna Gum, Chair, called the meeting of the Local Human Rights Committee to order on October 26, 2009. A quorum of members was present. With a motion from Ski Washington and a second from Hal Meyers, the minutes from the September meeting were approved as written. The agenda was approved on a motion from Hal Meyers and a second from Ski Washington.

Mahlon Webb was introduced as a potential candidate for membership.

The A2 ward rules were presented by Psychologist Brian Kiernan. Betty Anderson, staff member for A2, and Charlene Ellestad, dietician, accompanied Mr. Kiernan for the review to help answer questions from the committee. With a motion from Hal Meyers, and seconded by Robert Wade, the A2 rules were approved pending consideration to ensure that their policy on personal radios coincides with what had been previously approved for ward B2. There will be a follow-up report for the committee at the next meeting.

E.H. (patient) expressed her concerns to the committee regarding the justice and complaint processes. The committee was unable to pursue her complaint as it was not a human rights issue. E.H. was referred to the VOPA representative.

Jerry Thomas presented the Advocate's Report for Human Rights Activities in September.

Erin Haw, VOPA Representative, provided the 2009-2010 Objectives for the department's strategic plan of action.

Chuck Collins noted that the WSH variance report presentation for Mr. CC was cancelled at the 10/23 SHRC Meeting.

The patient complaints list, barriers list for discharge, and the IFPC meeting minutes were all reviewed by the committee with no questions to follow.

Donna Gum made announcements for mental health in the community. She mentioned that MHAA (Mental Health Association of Augusta) will be awarding Jerry Thomas with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Gail Burford reported that the Spanish translation of Patients Rights and Responsibilities for Western State are now available on the hospital's intranet.

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Upon a motion made by Hal Meyers and a second by Ski Washington, the committee went into executive session pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(1) for the purpose of discussion and consideration of appointments for the Local Human Rights Committee.

Upon reconvening in open session, all members of the Local Human Rights Committee certified that to the best of each ones' knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempt from statutory open meeting requirements, and only public business matters identified in the motion to convene the closed session were discussed in closed session.

With a unanimous vote from the committee, Mahlon Webb has been nominated for LHRC membership. His application will be forwarded to the SHRC for final approval. Donna Gum mentioned that the committee still has one vacant consumer position.

Upon a motion made by Hal Meyers, the committee went into executive session pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 A.15 and section 2.2-3705.5 for the discussion of medical and mental records excluded from the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, to solely discuss the concerns with patient E.H.

With a motion from Hal Meyers, the committee reconvened into open session. Upon reconvening in open session, all members of the Local Human Rights Committee certified that to the best of each ones' knowledge, only public business matters identified in the motion to convene the closed session were discussed in closed session.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 7, 2009 beginning at 2:30 pm.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made and passed to adjourn.

APPROVED:

Donna Gum, Chair

Shante' M. Ball, LHRC Secretary